

Part II MFL CRITERIA FOR LOWER EAST COAST REGIONAL PLANNING AREA

40E-8.021 Definitions

(8) Northeast Subregion of Florida Bay (hereinafter "Florida Bay") – means the bays, basins, and sounds within Taylor Slough and the C-111 Canal basin watersheds, including Long Sound, Little Blackwater Sound, Blackwater Sound, Buttonwood Sound, Joe Bay, Little Madeira Bay, Madeira Bay, Terrapin Bay, Eagle Key Basin, and other open waters of Florida Bay northeast of a boundary line between Terrapin Bay and Plantation Key (see Map 2).

40E-8.221 Minimum Flows and Levels: Surface Waters.

(5) Florida Bay

- (a) The minimum flow is the net discharge of 105,000 acre-feet of water over a 365 day period (a running total), with at least 7,000 acre-feet occurring between January 1st and March 31st into Florida Bay (measured at West Highway Creek, at 25°14'33" north and 80°26'50" west; Trout Creek, at 25°12'53" north and 80°35'01" west; Mud Creek, at 25°12'09" north and 80°35'01" west; Taylor River, at 25°11'27" north and 80°38'21" west; and McCormick Creek, at 25°10'03" north and 80°43'55" west), necessary to maintain sufficient salinities as described in subsection (b), below.
- (b) An exceedance of the minimum flow identified in subsection (a) will be deemed to occur when the average salinity over 30 consecutive days exceeds 30 parts per thousand at the Taylor River salinity monitoring station, located at 25° 13' 29.239 north and 80° 39' 10.230 west.
- (c) A minimum flow violation occurs when two exceedances, separated by at least a 180 day period, occur within a period of two consecutive years, more often than once in a six-year period.

Part IV IMPLEMENTATION

40E-8.421 Prevention and Recovery Strategies

(9) Florida Bay. In addition to the prevention strategies identified in Rule 40E-8.421(1), the following is the prevention strategy for the Florida Bay MFL in Rule 40E-8.221(5):

- (a) Under existing system conditions violations of the MFL are not anticipated to occur.
- (b) Modifications to operations for improved management of freshwater discharges to the headwaters of Taylor Slough and the southeast Everglades should consider the MFL, in coordination with:
 - 1. The Modified Waters Deliveries to Everglades National Park (MWD ENP) project and the C-111 Canal project, and any associated operational and construction plans pursuant to these projects;
 - 2. The C-111 Canal Spreader Acceler8 and CERP Projects;
 - 3. The CERP Florida Bay and Florida Keys Feasibility Study.
- (c) The SFWMD, in cooperation with other management agencies, will continue field monitoring and research to assess salinity, water level, and flow conditions and biological resource response in the region specified above.
- (d) The LEC Regional Water Supply Plan (anticipated in 2006) contains the approved prevention strategy for Florida Bay pursuant to Section 373.0421, F.S.